nere, so soon to be more practically exhibited the banks of the Seine, we confees a misgiving about the peace-compelling business. The great difficulty at present existing appears to be a fear in the minds of American inventors that it is a huge trap to pture gratuitously the work of their teeming brains. Austria is to be requested not to to anything of the kind.

The disclaimer of Mr. Brooks on the Crédit Mobilier question led to the most notable feature of the day-a proposition to have another committee appointed to examine thorpuchly the whole Union Pacific business in its relations to the government from beginning to end. A full consideration of this matter was postponed; but from the temper of the House it is not improbable that the proposed committee will be appointed. The action of the special committee in continuing its close sessions was commented on. The response was characteristic. They prefer telling the story altogether at the close of the investigation to letting the public learn its progress from day to day. It may be pertinent to ask whether the members, who long unanimously for newspaper fame, would like to have this "Star Chamber" rule applied to their orations during a whole session?

The Kind of Vessels Required for Our Navy.

The action of the Senate and House of Representatives in reference to the navy and naval ships building deserves more than a passing notice. A large majority of our representatives are of the opinion that our naval officers are equal if not superior to those of any other nation, yet where is the instance where any number of naval officers have been consulted to the class or kind of vessel most suited to the wants of the service?

Coffing of iron have been planned and built by people who never were at sea, and naval flicers have been ordered to sink or swim in them, and they have done both: but we re-need that there is no record to show that any number of naval officers were ever consulted bout those to be constructed for naval purcodes, and when we refer to naval officers we speak of that class whose duty it is to sail and aght the vessels of the navy. There is springing up among mercantile men a desire to inoresse our carrying trade, and in order to do another fron, for mercantile purposes.

We do not propose to argue the point as to which is best for that purpose; but we do most emphatically state it as a fact that, for cruising ships of war for all purposes, for the protection of commerce, for an ordinary fight, or in case of grounding, iron would be the most useless material in the world to be used. It is only necessary to refer to the Hatteras, which went to the bottom in ten minutes after Receiving one broadside of the rebel steamer Alabama. The thin three-quarter iron is hardly proof against rifled musketry.

There is quite a store of live oak, well seasoned and of suitable size, in our navy vards enough to build a dozen or more ships of the Hartford or Canandaigua class. These classes of vessels have done more service than will yet last many years. The cost of building wooden ships will be greater if built at the government yards; but, it is urged, they would be better and of sounder material. Congress bassed the "Eight-Hour law." but has no power of enforcing it except as regards labor under government control. In private shiprards nine, ten and even eleven hours, as may be decreed by the owners, constitutes a day's work, and all government employés are paid for eight hours the same pay that outside skill receives for nine, ten or eleven hours. This, it is plain to be seen, causes the differco of cost between a contract and a government-built ship. This also puts at the disposal of the government the best mechanical labor in the country; for the same pay good men would work faithfully eight hours per day against the hours of outside labor.

Since the election is a thing of the past men heed no longer encumber the rolls on account of the number of votes they control; but those whose duty it is to employ men should be free to select only first class workmen, irrespective of party or faction and untrammelled by political motives or political hucksters. If such measures were adopted then government-built Ships would cost but very little more than contract ones, and the work would be vastly su-

It is well known that no ships in the world. except perhaps East India teak-built ships, have lasted like the American live-oak ships of our navy. They have in all cases been fit for service years after any contract ship built at the same time has dropped to pieces and her name forgotten. It is for this reason that we urge upon the Secretary of the Navy and the legislators the necessity of a little advice from those who have made ships a life's study before inflicting upon the navy a lot of iron truising ships that will be a disgrace to the flag they wear. Build as many ironplated armored ships as you choose, Mr. Secretary, profiting by the mistakes of other nations. Produce iron-clads that will resist torpedoes if you can, but pray do not set affoat a fleet of three-quarter or one inch iron ships that will lumber up and obstruct the channel of Cuban ports at the first fire of some mountain howitzer battery, taking down with them brave and good American seamen to be food for tropical sharks.

In speaking of material for building ships It is well to observe that the material is on hand in our navy yards and already paid for. If under these circumstances private enterprise could build a fleet of vessels cheaper than the government can, why then open the doors for the contractor, who will have to pay an advanced price for all the material he uses in the building of ships.

Fairs of the Season.

In the general rejoicing and happy reunions that the approach of the greatest of all Christian festivals brings with it the first of Christian virtues, charity, occupies a prominent place. The glad tidings "Peace on earth" would in our days have but an empty signification were they not supplemented by deeds of charity such as show accordance with the spirit of the festival. Here are churches and schools laboring under serious disadvantages, and a timely loosening of purse strings will enable them to carry out their holy mission to the fullest artent. Charitable societies, whose sphere of usefulness cannot be overestimated, now invite the assistance of the benevolent, and home missions and other institutions designed for the

amelioration of the condition of the poor and the outcast stretch forth their hands in mute supplication to those whose means enable them to become donors. In the hubbub of toydom and the glittering cortége of Santa Claus such appeals should not be forgotten. They take a most interesting form in those fairs which are now occupying the attention of charitable ladies in every part of the city. From the palatial home of opera down to the regenerated slums of Water street the fair daughters of charity are at work, and those who wish "to lay up treasures in beaven" will not be slow in responding to their appeal.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Hassan Pacha, son of the Khedive of Egypt, is in Italy. Prodigious! Lady Napier, of Magdala, has recently returned

from India to England.

Captain Michaelis, of the United States Army, i at the Sturtevant House.

Bishop Randall, of Colorado, yesterday arrived

at the st. Nicholas Hotel. Judge Charles Daniells, of Buffalo, is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel.

Mr. John Locke, editor of the Cettic Weckly, has

retired from that journal. Ex-Congressman Thomas A. Jenckes, of Rhode

Island, is at the Astor House.

A. N. Ramsdell, President of the New London Railroad, is at the Albemarle Hotel.

Colonel G. W. Patten, of the United States Army has temporary quarters at the Astor House. Samuel F. Carrow, United States Marshal for North Carolina, yesterday arrived at the St. Nicho las Hotel.

Lady Hornby lately dired with the Prime Mints ter of Japan, the first European woman who ever had had that honor.

Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's youngest son

bas just been admitted to Christ Church College, Oxford, Wonderful!

Prince Alphonzo, son of Isabella of Spain, lately began his sixteenth year. He is still at the The resianum College in Vienna. Miraculous! It is proposed in Kéntucky that the Legislatu

charter a lare benk, to be run by best citters, in opposition to the Louisville Librar, lottery.

The urana Duke Nichola and Prince Eugene de Leuchtenberg have ended their visit to Egypt and returned to St. Petersburg through Italy and Austria.

Austria.

Giovanni Battista Palcieri, the servant in whose arms Lord Byron died, is a clerk in the India House London, a hale old man of seventy-five, and he almost worships the poet. The new Syndic of Rome, Count Piansiani, has

always been a zealous advocate of Italian unity. He was with Garibaldi in all his campaigns, and assisted him besides with money. The King of Spain, it is said, proposes to visit the

baths of Alhama d'Aragon shortly, accompanied by his physician, Dr. Carretero. It is sad so necessary a feat requires such premeditation.

After declining the appropriation from the Italian

to be in straitened circumstances. He derives about eight million lire a year from Peter's pence, Three new English missionary Bishops were to be consacreted in the Westminster Abbey last Sun-A. Russell, for North China, and Henry Rowley, for Madagascar. The cannibals will fle their teeth

United States Minister Thomas H. Nelson was a passenger for Vera Cruz on the steamship City of Merida, that sailed yesterday. He goes to resume his duties at the city of Mexico, which were interrupted by the death of his wife, whose body he brought home for interment.

Rev. Nathaniel William Taylor Root, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, of Portland, Me., died or Saturday afternoon at the city Smallpox Hospital of the confluent smallpox of a very severe character. He was a native of New Haven, Conn., and was about forty-two years of age.

The Berlin Court Circular of December Tsays:-

·His Majesty the Emperor and King to-day called at the Thiergarten Hotel and paid his respects to Frau von Schweinitz, the wife of His Majesty's Ambassador to Austria." The lady is the daughter of Hon. John Jay, United States Minister at Vienna. Mr. George Frederick Rose, a gentleman of ample

fortune, died lately in London. He had shut him self up in his room for years, and neither left it or allowed any one to enter, and absolutely perished from want of food and soap and water. Is there no flower of his kindred, no rosebud nigh to inherit his money? How's that for high?

Theodore Tilton, it is stated, will publish a state ment in the Golden Age denying the domestic irregularities recently alluded to by Woodhull and Classin. His statement has been ready for some time, but was withheld until the women were re leased on ball. Mr. Tilton at first determined to ignore the whole matter, but has been so severely pressed that he has determined to make a state

Prince Michel de Lusignan has been convicted in St. Petersburg of endeavoring to negotiate forged bills on the Russian Bank of Discount. He was sentenced to transportation to Siberia. His father proved in the trial that he was of royal blood descended from the Kings of Cyprus and Jerusalem. Temporary financial distress that was shared by his father was the incitement to the crime. What a misfortune to be a Prince with a poor father ! The Boston Transcript remarks, touching the

subject of "Noble Wives," that Mr. Seward's fa began to wane upon the death of his wife, to whom he owed the vitalizing currents which bore him on. Disraeli married in 1839, and at once began to ris to the stature he has reached. The Viscountess Beaconsfield is dead, and we shall see how much this extraordinary man also owed to the powe behind the throne. How long must it be before great women can bring their powers to bear at first hand? Sometimes they bring them to bear with both hands, and effectively.

STANLEY ENTERTAINED IN BOSTON.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 17, 1872. Livingstone, this evening, by Curtis Guild, of the Commercial Bulletin, at his residence, 26 Mount Vernon street. The affair was quite informal, but very pleasant. Among those present, together with many of the principal newspaper editors and proprietors, were Governor Washburn, Mayor Gaston, M. P. Wilder, Rev. E. E. Hale, Collector Russell and many distinguished citizens and members of the city government. There were also several lagies present.

ICE ON THE HUDSON.

The Old "King" Practically Closed to Navigation for the Winter.

NEWBURG, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1872. The navigation of the Hudson north of this point is practically closed for the season. The only boats now running between this city and New York are Homer Ramsdell & Co.'s daily line of barges, which are towed by heavy propellers, forcing a passage through the ice. The barge Susquenanna left here to-night in tow of a Poughkeepsie propeller, the to-night in tow of a Ponghkeepsie propeller, the latter making this her last trip for the season. South of this point the ice is not very heavy, but with the continued cold is gradually becoming more difficult to pass through, and, from present indications, navigation will soon be closed as far South as the southern entrance to the Highlands at Peekskill. The last tow from the Penusylvania Coal Works of this city consisted of ninety loaded boats, which were taken to New York by three steamers in one long river procession, beaded by the Norwich, known as the ice King of the Hudson.

THE ALABAMA MUDDLE ENDED.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 17, 1872.

According to agreement the members of the Court House and Capitol Legislatures met at the State House at twelve o'clock to-day and proceeded to business according to the plan of Attorney General Williams.

In the Senate the Lieut nant Governor presided. In the Senate the Lieut hant Governor presided.
No special business was transacted. The Barbour
county republican Senator took his seat, but it is
contested. The seat of the Marengo republican
senator will probably also be centested.
In the House the republicans elected the temporary Speaker and Clerk. They will have a majority
of from six to eight.

AFRICA AND BRITAIN.

Sir Bartle Frere's Arrival at Alexandria.

Cordial Reception of the Slave Trade Suppressionist Missionary-Court Compliment from the Khedive-A Distinguished Party Engaged in a Grand Humanitarian Duty.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Dec. 17, 1872. Sir Bartle Prere arrived in this city during the afternoon to-day en route on his journey from Great Britain to Aden to join the British expedi tion which has been commissioned to act for the

suppression of the African slave trade. The distinguished visitor travelled from Brindis by steamship.

He was received, on landing, by the British Consul General and a large number of officers of the Egyptian army, who gave him a very warm and encouraging greeting. COURT HONOR BY THE EURDIVE.

Sir Bartte will proceed from Alexandria to Cairo, where he will be entertained as the guest of His lighness the Khedive of Egypt, previous to his departure for Zanzibar.

SIR BARTLE'S ROUTE AND SUITE. Sir Bartle Frere took his departure from Charing Cross Station, London, on Thursday, the 21st of November, bound for Zanziber, by way of Paris,

November, bound for Zauland, by has a summer of a numer out and distinguished suite, and Lieutenant Cameron, R. N., commander of the Livingstone East Coast Expedition," will proceed to Zanzibar with Sir Barde and the party in command of the yacht Enghantres.

retary of Legation; Major Ewan Smith, private secretary; the Kazi Shahab-ud-Din, agent to the Rao of Cutch; Captain Fairfax, R. N., and Mr. Hil and Mr. Gray, attachés-the former from the English Foreign and the latter from the India Office.

ENGLAND.

Press Review of President Grant's my sage-His Diplomatic Urbanity, Cuban Policy and Outlook South.

Snow Storm and Swollen Rivers in the North---Platform Rioters Punished.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Dec. 17, 1872. The full text of President Grant's Message has been received by mail and is published in the

The London Times, reviewing the Message, says the President appears "reticent, formal and courteous, bowing to the diplomatic circle with all the urbanity of an Old World statesman." The Message is a striking picture of the prosperity and rapid progress of the country. The London Times approves of the proposal for an Alaska Boundary Commission, praises the President's "moderation toward Cuba," and applauds the recommendation for the reduction of the army, and adds:—"The President, about to enter upon his second term, finds the Union restored to its normal state at all salient points, but still bearing traces of the great war in the public debt and the disorganization of the South.

The London News, commenting on President Grant's Message, trusts his recommendation for the abolition of slavery in Cuba will be successful with the Spanish government. SEVERE SNOW STORM AND SWOLLEN RIVERS.

A severe snow storm prevailed in the north England during the day yesterday.

In Yorkshire and Derbyshire the ground is

covered to the depth of one foot and railway trains The rivers in that section of the country are very much swollen.

Fourteen of the ringleaders in the disorderly demonstrations at the Fenian Amnesty Meeting in Stockton, on Sunday last, have been sent to prison for various terms of punishment.

Severe Storm of Snow After Rain-Telegraphs Interrupted and Coast Line Swept.

LONDON. Dec. 18-5-30 A. M. It has been storming for the last twenty-four hours, and the rain fall has been the heaviest of the season. Large tracts of land in Leicestershire

In Derbyshire snow has fallen to the depth of The telegraph lines in all directions are badly

damaged. Telegraphic communication with Liver-pool, Leeds and Hull is interrupted. At Grimsby the gale was a hurricane, and many casualties are reported.

Wreck of a Ship on a Voyage from

LONDON, Dec. 18-5:30 A. M. The ship Luconia, from Philadelphia for Rotterdam, went ashore in the storm, near Boulogne, and became a total wreck. All hands on board were saved except one

DISRAELI'S DOMESTIC BEREAVEMENT. The funeral of Lady Beaconsfield will take place on Thursday. It will be strictly private.

WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18—1 A. M.
Synopsis for the Past Twenty-four Hours.

northerly and northeasterly winds, occasional snowand cloudy weather, extending southward to Western Lakes; in the Gulf and South Atlantic States northerly to easterly winds, cloudy weather Lake and Canadian regions southerly and westerly winds, generally clear weather and low tempera-Eastern States northwesterly to northeasterly winds, clear weather in the latter and cloudy weather and light snow and rain in the southern part of the former section.

Probabilities. The barometer will rise in the Northwest and over the Western Lakes and thence to Arkansas and Tennessee, with northerly and northeasterly winds, cloudy cold weather and occasional snow and rain, clearing in the afternoon; in the Gulf and South Atlantic States northerly to easterly winds, low pressures, cloudy weather and rain clearing away in the evening; in Michigan, on the Lower Lakes and in Canada, southwesterly to northwesterly winds, partly cloudy and cold weather and occasional snow; in the Middle and Eastern States northwesterly and northeasterly winds, diminishing pressures, lower temperatures cloudy weather, with occasional snow and rain in

The Weather in This City Yesterday. The fellowing record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnut's 1871. 1872.

33%

GERMANY.

A New First Secretary for the Imperial Legation in Washington.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Dec. 17, 1872. Among the passengers by the steams which left Bremen on Saturday for New York, is North German Legation at Vienna, who has been appointed to succeed Count Arnim Boltzenburg as First Secretary of the same Legation at Wash-

Herr Von Arko Valley, who is at present in Wash ington, takes the place of Count Andreas Bernstorff in Vienna.

PRINCE BISMARCK RELIEVED OF A COUNCIL PRESI-DENCY.

General Von Roon will act provisionally as President of the Prussian Council of Ministers, the Emperor having granted Prince Bismarck's request to

SPAIN.

be relieved.

Carlist Rout by Royalist Troops.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALS.

. MADRID, Dec. 17, 1872. Three Carlist bands were defeated and dispersed by the government troops on the 16th instant.

MEXICO.

Vote by Ballot Difficulties-Cortina's Plan of Carrying an Election-National Progress Despite the Border Line Agitation.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

MATAMOROS, Dec. 17, 1872. The delegates from the different precincts who retired from the headquarters of election without counting the votes for municipal onners, on the

15th inst., were induced last evening by Colone Cristo, military commander, to again meet. Having done so, and being about to count the who carried away and destroyed the papers an

he having publicly stated that, with one delegate of the twenty-four, he would carry the election.

Telegraphic comunication with the city of Mexico, by way of Matamoros, has been re-established,

and a telegram was received in New York on Tues day, 17th instant, from the Associated Press of Mexico to the press of this country, through its organizations, offering congratulations on the event and extending an invitation to American repre sentatives to be present at the inauguration of the completed ratiroad between the city of Mexico and Vera Cruz, on the 1st of January next.

CUBA.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. HAVANA, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1872.) Via KRY WEST.

The government is purchasing horses in Mexico for use in the army.

The epizooty continues and many horses are dying. MURDER OF A MATE.

Andrew Marshall, a sailor, of the brig Mariposa at Santiago de Cuba, killed Frank Breen, the sec ond mate.

HAYTI.

Presidential Publication Relative to

Paper Money Redemption.
L'Indépendance d'Haiti (newspaper) of the 30 inst. publishes for the first time a decree of President Saget, of which the following is a translation of the important portions:—

First—After the 15th of December, 1872, a delay

of four months is accorded for the presentation for exchange of paper money in circulation by the full dollar. After that delay paper money will cease entirely to be current anywhere in the Republic. Second—Bank bills of the denomination of \$20, of the last issue, now greatly depreciated by counterfeits, will be and will continue entirely with drawn from circulation after the 18th of December. drawn from circulation after the 15th of Decen

Eighth—By virtue of the provisions of article 12 of the law of August 24, 1872, there will be fixed by official publications, made by the authorities designated for the purpose, wherever necessary and as often as required, the counter value in money (specie) of the prices in paper money of all articles of consumption.

DIX WON'T DINE.

A Complimentary Banquet Declined by the Governor Elect-Reform To Be Carried Out in Cold Blood.

The following is the correspondence which has passed concerning a formal banquet tendered to General Dix and declined by that gentleman :-

General Dix and declined by that gentleman:

New York, Dec. 10, 1872.

Hon. John A. Dix:

Dhan Sir.—The near approach of the time when you will leave this city to enter upon your responsible dultes as Governor of the Shate induces us to ask of you the him you will leave this city to enter upon your responsible dultes as Governor of the Shate induces us to ask of you the him your ask to be given on it will be a seen to you.

We desire to avail ourselves of the occasion to express our entire confidence that your administration of the affairs of this State, as its executive head, will be characterized by economy and efficiency in every department of the government under your control; this, appreciating the emphatic expression of the people of the processing the emphatic expression of the people of the processing the emphatic expression of the people of the your and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, theourage and promote, by all the means in your power, the ourage and promote, by all the means in your power, the ourage and promote, by all the means in your power, the ourage and promote, by all the means in your government of this State to the purity of its early days.

A long and unsullied life, so large a part of which has been spent in the acceptable performance of high public trusts, is a guarantee that you will exhibit, in the distinguished position to which you have been elevated by so large a vote of your fellow citizens, the same sterling virtues which have been evinced in your discharge of all official duties. We are, dear sir, very respectfully yours, JOHN C. GREEN,

ROYAL PHELPS, Wh. F. HAVEMEYER,

ROHN J. ASTEWART, JAMEN BROWN,

H

WILLIAM H. MACY.

WILLIAM H. MACY.

WILLIAM H. ASTOR.

No. 3 West Twenty-first Street, Dec. 14, 1872.

Gentlemen:—I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 10th inst., inviting me to meet you at a public dinner.

For this kind invitation and for the flattering expressions of confidence and friendly repard with which it is accompanied, I beg you to accept my most sincere thanks. My departure at an early day to take up my residence in Albany, and my urgent engagements in the meantime in arranging my private affairs here, compel me to decline the honor you have tendered me.

I am in verfect accordance with you in regard to the popular expression at the late election in favor of a radical reform in the administration of the affairs of the State and its commercial capital. I consider it a verdict by the neople against the corrupt and selfish management of political cliques, a condemnation of extravagance, Iraud, maireasance in office and public plunder, and a declaration in favor of retrenehment in expenditure, a strict accountability in executive departments, and a purification of the halls of legislation, the prolific sources of abuse. To the accomplishment of these objects I am committed by views announced years ago, widely circulated during the late political canvass, and ratified, as I conceive, by an overwhelming majority of the people. So lar as depends on me, these views will be raithfully and infexibly carried out. It may be necessary for the Legislature, in extirpating the diseased parts of the body politic, to resort to sharp remedial processes, but I trust these processes will be performed with an unflinching land, and, in so doing, the representatives of the people who have been chosen to execute their will may rely on my most cordial co-operation.

Renewing the expression of my most grateful acknowledgment of the honor you have done me. I am, gentlemen, respectually and truly yours.

Herement of the honor you have done me. I am, gentlemen, respectually and truly yours.

Herement of the honor yo

THE COMMITTEE OF SEVENTY. The Governor Elect Resigns.

General John A. Dix, the Governor elect, has addressed the following letter to Mr. James M. Brown, resigning from the Committee of Seventy:-

resigning from the Committee of Seventy:—

No. 3. West Twenty-first Street, Dec. 17, 1872.

Dear Sir—As I am about to remove to Albany I deem it proper to resign my place as a member of the Committee of Seventy. In dissolving my connection with you and our associates in the committee, I shall carry with me a pleasant remombrance of our joint consultations and labors, and of our earnest efforts to secure for our fellow citizens a municipal government which should protect them in the future from the gross abuses of the past. I am, very truly, yours.

James M. Berwe Esq., Chairman Committee of Seventy.

AMUSEMENTS.

Fifth Avenue Theatre-"A Bold Stroke

for a Husband."
The latest, and, we presume, the last of the old English comedies, Mrs. Cowley's "Bold Stroke for a Husband," was produced at the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night. The cast was chiefly remarkable in the fact that the leading parts were all taken by the younger members of Mr. Daly's com-pany, Mr. George Clarke and Mr. Lewis James as suming Don Julio and Don Carlos, and Miss Fanny Davenport and Miss Clara Morris the Donna Olivia and Donna Victoria. Mr. Griffiths played Don Don Vincentio. As a picture the play was very beautiful, but as a severe and faithful interpretation of Spanish life—which, like the law of the Medes and Persians, changes not—it fell below that merit the company could have shown by a more studied presentation of the piece. We attach no particular blame to this fault, however, for Mrs. Cowley's play is searcally Spanish, beyond the more studied presentation of the piece. We attach no particular blame to this fault, however, for Mrs. Cowley's play is scarcely Spanish, beyond the names of the characters and the harsh rules which husbands and fathers adopt in the control of their wives and daughters. People care very little nowadays for the severe etiquette of Spanish life, smothered, as it is, in a multitude of fine phrases, and its representation would afford little pleasure. Taking this view of the matter, the manner in which the play was presented was better than if the players had adhered to the strictest Spanish ideal. If never reaching the height of greatness, a thing which this comedy scarcely allows, it was well done in all its parts. Neither special fault nor special praise need be awarded to anybody, except in a single and unexpected instance, the performance being unusual for its ease and evenness. It was piquant often and always airy as a Summer cloud. It never dragged, and sometimes was made very amusing. It makes little difference whether it was well played as old comedy, for its great excellence consisted in the fact that it was comedy well played. Miss Kate Claxton, as the Donna Marcella, was worthy of a word of praise, and Miss lose St. Clair, who made her first appearance in this city, was more fortunate than some other of the new comers in playing the little part that she attempted with an ease that at least gave promise of something better is the future. Well as all the parts were played the piece gave one of those dramatic surprises it is a very pleasant duty to record. Miss Mary Cary, in playing Minette, Donna Olivia's maid, acted the assumption of her mistress's character in the fourth act with singular skill, and was rewarded by being called before the curtain. It was one of those returns for doing a smail part well which a generous public is always willing to bestow where it is merited, and in spite of much cellent acting at this and other theatres this little episode must be placed among the successes of the dramat

- --- al and Theatrical Notes.

"The Duke's Mother is now on the boards of the Brooklyn Theatre and attracts very good houses. Damrosch and Mills announce a concert of cham-ber music of particular excellence for Thursday evening at Steinway Hall.

The "Arcadian Symphony," by the best of Ameri-

The "Arcadian Symphony," by the best of American composers, George Bristow, will be the feature of the Brooklyn Philharmonic concerts this Winter.

M. John Glibert and Miss Effic Germon make their first appearance at Wallack's this season in "Brother Sam." Two such excellent artists cannot fail to enhance the interest of the performance. After Christmas a rich feast of music is in store.

Rubinstein, the king of all living musicians; Wieniawski, the first violinist in the world, and Theodore Thomas and his incomparable orchestra all return to us with new works and new programmes.

Miss Jenny Busk, who is the soprano for the third

of the Mills and Damrosch soirées of chamber music to-morrow evening, is a Baltimore lady. She gained some reputation last year in concert singing in the smaller cities, and now appeals to New York taste for judgment. The Italian opera company is doing well in Philrdelphia, to judge from the reception accorded to

ine" cannot fall to make a good impression in the beginning after the thesaurus of adjectives thrown at her feet by New York critics. The Mendelssohn Union, which, since the advent of Albert Weber as one of the managers, seems to have picked up new life, now proposes to take the place of the defunct Harmonic. This soclety will give on Christmas evening the oratorio

Mr. George L. Fox was recently offered \$4,000 per week for a two months' engagement by the managers of the Olympic Theatre. "Humpty Dumpty," however, was compelled to decline the tempting offer, his present arrangements extending so far into the future as to preclude the acceptance of all The fearfully and wonderfully made tones of Ger-

man opera at the Stadt Theatre will not satisfy nerican public for the absence of Lucca. Poor Pauline! is the burden of the operatic voice. Likely next year "Diva Adelina" will be the cry. But such is the voice of the public. "La Reine est morte; vive la Reine!" When Patti comes let all

There is a movement among theatrical managers to abolish the bill-board system of advertising. Besides the expense which attends this mode of dvertising, it is made a great nuisance, not only to the public, but to the theatres. All the city officials, from the street-sweepers to the attaches of the Corporation Attorney's office, use it as a means of petty blackmail upon managers, and in addition to the annovance and expense the system is of no

use in attracting patronage. Mr. Jean Vogt gave a specimen of his talents as a composer at Steinway's yesterday afternoon. A select (that is the polite term, we suppose, when the numbers are infinitesimal) audience listened to a number of Mr. Vogt's works. Well, the works proved to be musicianly and actually possessed of some merit. No wonder, when such artists as Mills, Damrosch, Bergner, Goffie, &c., took part in them. But Mr. Vogt is not a planist worthy to reign with undisputed power in this city. His works will be accepted as the results of a good musical education, and nothing further.

THE GREAT PIRE IN HAMILTON.

HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 17, 1872. The smouldering ruins of yesterday's fire burst into flames this afternoon, communicating with into names this afternoon, communicating with Davis & Co.'s store adjoining. Their loss is \$20,000; insurance \$40,000. James Turner & Co.'s whole-sale grocery was damaged to a large amount. The Bank of Commerce received considerable damage. Some of the insurances are as follows:—Imperial, \$8,000; Commercial Union, \$8,000, and Hartford, \$7,000. The total loss is estimated at \$100,000, which, with yesterday's fire, makes the loss over \$200,000.

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Record:

GENTLEMEN We have just been notified by the Secretary of the New Central Coal Company that your paper of December 18 contains a gross libel on them and that if we continue its sale they would hold us responsible. We shall, therefore, be obliged to discontinue the sale of the number in question.

PATRICK FARRELLY, Secretary, Number of the Secretary, Sec Not wishing to cause any inconvenience, trouble or expense to the above named company and willing to take
the entire responsibility of the charge of libel on our own
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